



## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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### MEMORANDUM

Date: February 11, 2026

To: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board of Directors

From: Will Inselman, Resources Coordinator *WI*

Subject: Minutes for Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting

On Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 5:49 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry, and Wildlife subcommittee met in the NRD Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present: Anthony Schutz-Chair, Don Jacobson, Mark Spangler, David Hibler, John Yoakum, and Deborah Eagan. Director Lamberty was also present. District staff were David Potter, Eric Zach, and Will Inselman. There were three action items for consideration.

The first item on the agenda was the consideration of a permanent easement with NDOT at HWY 1 and MoPac East Trail. The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) is planning to improve a portion of Highway 1 in Cass County as part of the US-34 – Murdock project. Highway 1 crosses the MoPac East Trail on the south edge of Elmwood. NDOT will be improving drainage along the west and east sides of Hwy 1, which will require a new drainage structure directly to the north of the MoPac East Trail. To construct this improvement, NDOT proposes purchasing a 255.85 square foot permanent easement from the District. The current design shows no impact on the MoPac East Trail, and NDOT project information states that access to the trail will be maintained during construction. The total payment for the easement to the District will be \$810.00.

**It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Eagan, and unanimously approved to recommend that the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the sale of a permanent easement to NDOT for improvements on Hwy 1 in Elmwood at the Hwy 1 and MoPac East Trail intersection for \$810.00, pending legal counsel review.**

#### **Motion Passed: 6-0**

The second item on the agenda was the consideration of an agreement with Judson Irrigation to install a sprinkler system at Marsh Wren. In coordination with the Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership (SWCP) members, District staff have requested that The Flatwater Group (TFG), as part of the Marsh Wren Data Research Project, design a saline groundwater sprinkler system for our current groundwater pumping system. Staff indicated that the new system would be used in conjunction with the existing flood irrigation system when Salt Creek Tiger Beetle adults are active in the summer months. The goal is that this new technique would

provide a better distribution of consistent moist soil for egg laying and increase the number of saline pools for drinking and foraging.

**It was moved by Yoakum, seconded by Hibler, and unanimously approved to recommend that the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to sign an agreement with Judson Irrigation to install a saline groundwater sprinkler system at Marsh Wren Community Wetland to complement the existing groundwater pumping system.**

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

The third item on the agenda was the consideration of an offer to purchase land adjacent to Red Cedar WMA. For this item, the subcommittee went into closed session. *It was moved by Jacobson, seconded by Yoakum, and unanimously approved that the subcommittee go into closed session to protect the public interest and develop a strategy with respect to negotiations related to the acquisition of the Denton Property in Saunders County.*

The subcommittee went into closed session at 6:11 PM and came out of closed session at 6:21 PM.

**It was moved by Schutz, seconded by Hibler, and unanimously approved to recommend that the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the Denton property appraisal and authorize staff to negotiate and acquire fee title in accordance with Director Schutz's guidance.**

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

Lastly, staff updated the subcommittee that we were successful in our RTP application and were awarded \$250,000 for the construction of the Prairie Corridor trail segment from Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center up through the Samani Conservation Easement.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file